(c) The Departmental Head is conducting an enquiry.

Officer deputed for the purchase of opium, ganja, &c.

17. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the name of the Officer who was deputed recently by the Excise Superintendent for the purchase of opium, ganja, etc.;

(2) what was the total quantity purchased of each article, and what is the total expenditure for each article and from where was each of the articles purchased, and what is the price for each;

(3) what is the amount of T. A. spent for this purpose;

(4) how long was the office on this duty?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(1) No officer was deputed for the purchase of opium. K. R. Ramaswami Ayyar, Enamavu Range Aminadar, was sent for the purchase of ganja.

(2) No opium was purchased, 300 seers of ganja were purchased. The expenditure was as follows:—

Cost price of 300 seers	Rs.	375— 0—0
Transport charges	,,	53—11—6
Expenses of lead	,,	21—14—6
Total	Rs.	450—10—0

The article was purchased from Santavasal Storehouse. The price is Rs. 1—4—0 per seer.

(3) T.A. to the officer sent from here was Rs. 36—3—0.

(4) The officer went to the Head Office at Ernakulam on 8th Karkadagam 1102. Left Ernakulam for Santavasal on the 10th Karkadagam. Returned with the drugs on the 12th and after entrusting the drugs in the Head Office, returned to his place of duty on the 13th Karkadagam.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Is this Mr. K. R. Ramaswamy Ayyar, the same individual, who was the camp clerk of the Excise Superintendent on a previous occasion, and about whose conduct a series of interpellations were put in the Council?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—He was the camp clerk of the Excise Superintendent.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Is there any reason for choosing this particular person to purchase opium, etc.?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—His experience of foreign travelling and the confidence of the Excise Superintendent in him were the reasons.

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